

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached document is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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I hereby certify that on the date indicated above, this new U.S. patent application and the papers indicated as enclosed therein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT DO/EO/US, Washington, D.C. 20231, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.10.


Signature of Person Mailing the Application

Vicki L. Sgro
Typed Name of Person Mailing the Application

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-9 of the Amended Sheets as follows:

1. (Amended) Process for the production of dyed oxide layers on aluminium or aluminium alloys by dyeing in an aqueous dyebath, rinsing with water and sealing, [characterized in that] where the dyeing is carried out using at least one water-soluble anionic dye (A) which possesses at least one substituent and/or component combination with a ligand character that is capable of forming a nickel complex with nickel ions, and the sealing is carried out by cold sealing with at least one sealing agent (B) containing nickel ions Ni^{2+} and fluoride ions F^- .
2. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] where, for the sealing, a two-step sealing is carried out, in which, in the first step, cold sealing is carried out with at least one sealing agent (B), and in the second step, hot secondary sealing is carried out with water.
3. (Amended) Process according to Claim 1[or 2], [characterized in that] where the dyes (A) are dyes with which dyeings are produced on the oxide layers whose light fastness, determined in accordance with ISO specification No. 105 B02 (USA), after hot-sealing with water or with a nickel compound, corresponds to a light fastness grade of below 7.
4. (Amended) Process according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 4], [characterized in that] where the dyes (A) are sulfo group-containing dyes which contain at least one substituent and/or component combination with a ligand character capable of forming a labile nickel complex with nickel ions,
5. (Amended) Process according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 4], [characterized in that] where the dyes (A) are sulfo group-containing dyes which contain at least one salicylic acid group, optionally in salt form, or are copper complexes which contain nitrogen atoms as ring members of a heterocyclic ring, only some or none of which participate in the copper complex formation.

6. (Amended) Process according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 5], [characterized in that] where (B) is employed in the form of (B)-containing sealing agent preparation (B_P).
7. (Amended) The oxide layers dyed by the process according to [one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 6].
8. (Amended) Dyed oxide layers according to Claim 9 with a light fastness corresponding to a light fastness grade, in accordance with ISO specification No. 105 B02 (USA), of ≥ 7 [, preferably ≥ 8].
9. (Amended) Dyed oxide layers according to Claim 7 [or 8] with a light fastness corresponding to a light fastness grade, in accordance with ISO specification No. 105 B02 (USA), which is at least two grades higher than an otherwise identical dyeing which, however, has been hot-sealed with water.

Add new Claim 10 as follows:

10. Dyed oxide layers according to Claim 9 with a light fastness corresponding to a light fastness grade,
in accordance with ISO specification No. 105 B02 (USA), of ≥ 8 .